

you may have to make on this subject will also be greatly appreciated. The picture shows the snakes in the state in which we took them from the water, they being both alive when the photograph was taken.

R.I.M.S. 'Lawrence,'

R.I.M. Headquarters,

November 28, 1926.

A. R. POYNTZ.

[With regard to the copulation of snakes in general, G. A. Boulenger (*The Snakes of Europe*) writes as follows:—

'The union of the sexes sometimes lasts only a few minutes but usually an hour or more; it has even been observed to last a whole day. Several copulations may take place at intervals of a few days. . . . The more or less prehensile tail with which thoroughly aquatic snakes (like sea snakes) are provided is no doubt of use in facilitating the pairing when it has to take place in the water.'

All exclusively aquatic snakes such as the *Hydrophiinae* are ovoviviparous and thus dispensed from going on land for parturition. Eds.]

No. XVII.—OCCURRENCE OF THE WORM-LIKE BATRACHIAN
ICHTHYOPHIS MONOCHROUS, BOULENG., AT KHANDALA,
POONA DISTRICT

When at Khandala during the month of September 1919, I secured several specimens of this Batrachian. It lives under stones, during the rains, in burrows much after the fashion of the earthworm which it also resembles in its movements. At first sight it might well be mistaken for one of these creatures as its body is also coated with slime. On the removal of the stone under which it lives the animal soon begins to descend into its burrow away from light.

It was only by chance that I picked up one of these animals while hunting for other things. It was its darker colour which arrested my attention first. When I examined it more closely, I discovered that it possessed a definite head and jaws like that of a snake and as I had never seen an animal like it before I consigned it to my collecting bottle for examination later on and was glad to find then that I had discovered one of these limbless Batrachians.

The *Fauna of British India* gives the distribution as follows:—

'Java, Borneo, Singapore, Sikkim and Western Ghats of India; specimens were obtained in Malabar by Col. Beddome and I have recently received from Mr. Gleadow a fine specimen obtained at Waghei, Surat.'

As there is no definite locality mentioned for the Western Ghats, I think it is worth while recording this animal from a particular spot in order to enable us to further our knowledge of its distribution.

BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,

6, APPOLLO STREET, BOMBAY.

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C. McCANN.

No. XVIII.—VIVIPARITY IN A THISTLE

(With a plate)

In July 1925 Mr. D. Frenchman found a specimen of *Echinops echinatus*, Roxb., a thistle, two miles from Panchgani on the way to Wai. This plant usually flowers from November to January and ripens its fruit immediately after.

The specimen in question was a plant of the previous year; stem and leaves were absolutely dead and dry, so were the vegetative parts of the inflorescence. From between the bracts about twenty achenes had germinated and young plants with a short stem and branches and roots had developed. The first leaves were 3-4 cm. long and about 1 cm. broad; petiole and blade were of equal length. It is strange that the seeds had not fallen off during the long season.